

dental) is a valuable if not necessary one. The ability to remain on the water surface is probably essential; but to be able also to navigate on the surface, against or across the current, may prevent an individual from being swept downstream and effectively removed from its population. This is most important for those organisms which live in restricted altitudinal zones along mountain streams. In such instances, to be swept downstream is to be displaced from a habitat suitable for both reproduction and survival. This displacement may be irreversible for wingless forms.

It may be simplest to view the navigatory capacity of these beetles strictly as adaptation to the hazards of the riparian habitat. However, observations of behavior such as that outlined above suggest that much more may be involved. Indeed, the extent to which organisms in this habitat use the adjacent waterway for "intentional" (such as simple locomotion, dispersal, etc.) rather than accidental movements has been virtually unexplored. Perhaps the distinction between the terms "terrestrial" and "aquatic" is far more arbitrary than we now realize.

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BOOK REVIEW

Classification and biology by R. A. Crowson. 1970. Atherton Press Inc., 70 Fifth Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. 350p.; \$8.95, cloth.

Most of our readers are familiar with the author's major work on beetles, "The natural classification of the families of Coleoptera" first published in 1955 and reprinted in 1968. This new book on classification was 10 years in preparation and has numerous innovative approaches to the subject. Crowson readily admits that (like Hennig, but independent of his ideas) his is a "... strictly phylogenetic approach to the subject." The book contains 22 chapters, a bibliography of 217 titles, and a thorough index of 30 pages. As would be expected, beetles are often used as examples to clarify general points.

The book contains a great amount of personal opinion and general philosophy—but an honest appraisal of current problems. His chapter on the "working taxonomist" contains so many truths that it emphasises the discouraging aspects of his chapter on "the future of systematics." Very few sciences are burdened with the volume of literature and the inherent difficulties of our nomenclatural system. Crowson states it thusly, "In order to be in a position to make permanently valuable additions to botany and zoology, each generation has need first to assimilate and evaluate all that its predecessors have achieved. Real scientific progress has meant that this task has become more and more onerous for each succeeding generation." How true it is.—R. E. Woodruff.